

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's eeBuildings (energy-efficient Buildings) program helps international building owners, managers, and tenants improve the energy performance of their buildings. Drawing on the expertise of ENERGY STAR, eeBuildings connects financial and environmental performance to energy efficiency.

Significant Energy and Cost Savings Achieved through Optimum Use of Energy Controls

Since 1999, ENERGY STAR has been conducting yearly analyses of the primary construction, management, and equipment characteristics of the most energy-efficient buildings in the United States. Surprisingly, the findings from these annual studies demonstrate that the most energy-efficient buildings are not necessarily those with the most advanced technology. What makes these buildings top energy performers? The answer is that they have aggressive operations and maintenance programs in place and take full advantage of their existing control systems. Many times investing in new technology is not the best answer. Improving operations of existing controls can be inexpensive, low risk, and highly effective in achieving desired energy and cost savings. It is estimated that low-cost measures to improve operations and maintenance can save up to 10 percent of your energy bill.

For ideas on improving the operations and maintenance in your building, visit the Portland Energy Conservation Inc. (PECI) O&M Best Practices Series web page at <http://www.peci.org/om>.

PECI is a nonprofit corporation based in the United States that has specialized in innovative and creative approaches to the responsible use of energy and facility resources since 1980. The PECI O&M Best Practices Series helps owners and managers increase energy efficiency, improve occupant comfort, and reduce operating expenses through low-cost operating improvement.

eeBuildings Returns to Shanghai in January

eeBuilding's next visit to Shanghai will be the week of January 13 –17. The team will be meeting again with key players in the Shanghai commercial real estate market to demonstrate the use of the U.S. EPA benchmarking tool and to share U.S. case studies and lessons learned from ENERGY STAR Partners. Specific focus will be on maximizing building energy performance through optimum use of existing energy control systems. During the September trip to Shanghai, eeBuildings found it encouraging to see advanced control systems already in place in many Shanghai commercial buildings. The team is eager to share strategies for managing these control systems to maximize energy and cost savings while maintaining a comfortable environment. If you are interested in attending one of these training sessions, or meeting with eeBuildings representatives while they are in Shanghai, please contact Steve Bagley at sbagley@icfconsulting.com.

Highlights from the First U.S. Green Building International Conference and Exposition

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work. Each year the USGBC holds a conference to showcase leading-edge technologies in the green buildings industry. This year's conference, registering over 3,500 attendees, was the first to include international green buildings projects. eeBuilding's Steve Bagley attended, and here are some highlights of what he learned:

- Green Globes, an ambitious Canadian project, is similar to the U.S. EPA Benchmarking Tool. The Green Globes tool differs from the U.S. tool in that it includes a series of questions to generate an overall sustainability score for each building. Currently, the tool works for Canadian buildings only and there is a nominal fee. For more information, visit <http://www2.energyefficiency.org/homeca.asp>.

- Accord21 is "an innovative building demonstration project in Beijing." This building will house Chinese government offices and will use 30 to 50 percent less energy than conventional designs. The building will also contain an energy-efficient demonstration and training center. For more information, visit <http://www.accord21.org>.

- The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Shanghai Pacific Energy Center recently completed an agreement to start a Green Building Program in Shanghai. eeBuildings will track their progress and report back in a future newsletter.

For more about the U.S. Green Building Council and the conference, visit <http://www.usgbc.org>.

Help us Build a Better Newsletter

- We'd like to hear about your progress. If you have had successful experiences improving the energy efficiency of your buildings outside the U.S., please let us know at eeBuildings@epa.gov.

- Calling all links. In 2003, eeBuildings will be adding links to Partner websites from the eeBuildings website. Please send us your links or let us know if you would like to be added to the list.

- If you have suggestions for how to improve the content of this newsletter, please send them to eeBuildings@epa.gov.

To learn more about eeBuildings, visit <http://www.epa.gov/eeBuildings> or e-mail eeBuilding@epa.gov.

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